

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[0038] In combination with a transport mechanism that includes a plurality of conveyor rollers, an apparatus is used to position a carriage loadable with a wound reel at a desired location on the transport mechanism. The apparatus includes a rotary pulse generator associated with one of the plural conveyor rollers for registering the revolutions of the one of the plural conveyor rollers wherein the revolutions embody a measure of the distance traveled on the transport mechanism by the carriage. The apparatus also includes at least a first and a second initiator for determining the current position of the carriage on the transport mechanism. The first initiator detects a first position of the carriage. The second initiator detects a second position of the carriage. The revolutions of the rotary pulse generator and a distance between the first and second initiator are used to calculate a slip ( $K$ ), which is used to determine distance ( $W$ ) between the current position of the carriage and the desired position ( $S$ ) of the carriage.